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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Oregon, Idaho, Washington—
Fair continued warm.

THE INSURANCE SPECTACLE.

There is but little choice to be had as between the filthy meat packeries of the country and the dishonest, haggling and shirking insurance companies, when it comes to a final estimate of either. The American public is utterly shamed by the disclosures in both businesses, and takes but little trouble to differentiate between them. Both have forfeited the right to public confidence, and though there are exceptions in the ranks of both, the disreputable records they have made as commercial units, makes it every difficult to realize and recognize the concerns uninvolved. When an American lends his confidence and support to any line of business, such as insurance, life, fire, and accident, he looks upon the venture as wholesome and carries it cheerfully, year to year, in the firm conviction he is to get his money's worth when the time shall come, and if it does not come, then he is satisfied with the assurance of the protection he has had, and still has the good word for his company and his risk. When some big event transpires to put the company to the farthest test of endurance and try out its integrity, he is forced to acknowledge that his faith was a folly and his risk a haub, he is ashamed of himself, of his country and the business institutions that were its pride, and is altogether undone and demoralized. Some authoritative way should be devised that would give wide and instant publicity to the names of the companies that are true to their last obligations, in the present instance, and those of the defaulting concerns, so that the new business might accrue to the houses that are entitled to it by reason of their probity; and the shifting, shirking and defective businesses be allowed to go hang. This paper would be glad to publish a discriminating list for the benefit of its readers in this behalf.

WE FEEL GOOD!

The Canadian Fisheries Commission has been making a thorough inquiry into the conditions under which the salmon of the Pacific Coast is packed, and has reported to its government, that, without exception, those conditions are satisfactory; that the fish are packed fresh; that the manner of packing and handling is absolutely cleanly; that it found no cause for complaint. We can only hope that world-wide publicity will be given to this honest and wholesome report, that the people may know whereof they eat when they use the packages sent out from the Columbia river canneries and all others on the coast. For the sake of that publicity, every paper on the Pacific slope should take a hand in its dissemination. It means more than the mere bolstering of a particular industry; it means an assurance of comfort and value to hundreds of thousands of people with whom the canned fish is an article of regular consumption; it means the restoration of general confidence in one of the great and growing sources of the food-supply of the civilized world; and it stands out in the limelight of proven purity against the foul shadows cast by the recent Chicago exposures, and its conspicuous prominence and exclusion from that inconceivable horror should be made manifest to all men.

THAT NEW LAUNCH LAW.

The federal government has at last taken up the matter of the handling of the gasoline launches, and imposed certain requirements that are wholly wise and commendable, and should have been imposed long ago. But they are in force now, and vessels of that class, under 15 tons gross, will be comparatively safe from this time on, for those who use them in any way. There was a grave mistake made, however, in excepting the pleasure boats and yachts of this class. They should have been included, for the sake of the lives that may be imperilled for want of the very things provided for the working boat. The owner of a pleasure launch is much better able to supply his craft with all that the government imposes on the others, and he is frequently the host of groups of friends on board, that may need life-preservers just as badly as the crews or passengers of the vessels required to carry them. It is not a matter of personal responsibility; the government has as much control over the one as the other, and life is life, wherever it may chance to need saving. The exception is the bad feature of the new law.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

The meaning of the word luck may be fully explained in the following: "Luck means rising not later than 6 o'clock in the morning, living on a dollar a day if you earn two, minding your own business and not meddling with other people's. Luck means the appointments you have never failed to keep, the trains you have never failed to catch, Luck means trusting in God and your own resources.

It is estimated by Darwin that there are 100,000 earthworms quietly at work for the advantage of the upper six feet of every acre of earth. They continually turn over the soil and drag down leaves and grass, and thus they loosen the soil and fertilize the ground, so that the necessary air can reach the roots that spread and grow.

A Hissing and a By-Word.

Magistrate—What's your name?
Prisoner (named Simpson and a stammerer)—Sa-s-s-s-s—
Magistrate—Constable, what's the prisoner charged with?
Constable—Sounds like seltzer water, yer worship.

Hasten the day when our intellectual life has so far developed that a clean paper will be in greater demand than a sensational one, when the public shall eat of the meat of knowledge, rather than feed on the aromatic husks that excite the passions and fester a national life.

The publisher of several agricultural papers advertises the rural field as the "only one unspoiled left for the advertiser." The country press might take notice of the fact and impress upon advertisers that the local home paper is the best medium for this field.

Here is where Cupid is put out of business. The little god is no auditor of accounts. When he draws his bowstring he shuts his eyes and if the loosened shaft lodge in the heart of a plutocrat or the breast of a peasant it is all one to him.

The world is full of want, but of actual starvation there is little. Want and need are by no means synonymous. It is a nice question whether there are not more people who have more than is really good for them than people who have not enough.

Dr. Erasmus Holt of Maine says the highest possible value of any human being is exactly \$30,344.68. The doctor is not optimistic enough, regarding the human family, to make a successful life insurance agent.

A New Jersey girl weighing 263 pounds, in her hurry to greet her lover, tripped and fell on his neck, breaking it. Seven doctors could not save his life. Beware of the heavyweight girl.

The cost of living cannot be fixed by any standard. It varies from \$300 a year for some preachers to \$300,000 a year for some stock gamblers; but some happiness is not in proportion to income.

The earliest known mention of shaving is in the Bible (Genesis xiv. 14) "And he (Joseph) shaved himself and came before Pharaoh." Shaving the beard was introduced by the Romans about 300 B. C.

There are no orphanages in Australia. Every child not supported by parents becomes a ward of the state, is placed in a private family and provided with board and clothes until the fourteenth birthday.

The Evolution of Snyder Brothers

THE fence along the old pike road. I'll ne'er forget, for memory clings about the streaky ads. that told Where one could buy all earthly things.

Along old Skinner's pasture land A piece of fence this message bore:

But time passed on. The little town. Where Snyder Brothers had their place Became a city, and the firm Of Snyder Brothers grew apace.

Along old Skinner's pasture land The march of progress showed like this:



A month ago I wandered back Along the old pike road, and, lo, The trolley cars buzzed swiftly past! 'Twas not the place I used to know. At Skinner's rolling pasture land The change o'ershadowed all the rest. A gorgeous house and lawns were there, And out in front was



—Charles R. Barnes in Judge.

Answered.

"Big Tim" Sullivan of Tammany fame tells of an Irishman who shortly after his entrance into the business life of the east side as a contractor began to dispose of his superfluous wealth by the purchase of diamonds, of which he became a heavy buyer.

One evening a friend, meeting him in the lobby of the theater, observed that the Irishman was affording the public a more than usually liberal display of the gems. "Look here, Pat," said the friend, "you oughtn't to wear so many diamonds at once. It's considered vulgar."

"Vulgar, eh?" indignantly repeated the contractor. "I don't know about that, but one thing I've noticed, me friend, and that is—them that has 'em wears 'em!"—Lippincott's Magazine.

Things One Ought Not to Let Slip.



Brown (whose pictures are nothing if they are not deadly serious)—No, I don't make my living by painting, but it provides me with a great deal of amusement.

Fair Critic—Oh, you are too modest, Mr. Brown. I'm sure your friends also get a great deal of amusement out of them.—Tatler.

She Knew.

"Katharine," said Bob as he brought his club chums down to the depot platform, "these are all my friends."

"Glad to meet you, gentlemen," replied the bride sweetly, "and I am so sorry that you are going to be sick."

"Sick?" echoed the crowd in astonishment. "Why should you think we are going to be sick?"

"Oh, because soon after the honeymoon a married man always finds a great many sick friends to sit up with."—Detroit Tribune.

An Ill Omen.

"Suppose I am superstitious? What of it?"

"Oh, I wouldn't be superstitious for the world!"

"You wouldn't, eh?"

"No, because whenever you begin to get superstitious it's a sure sign you're going to have bad luck."—Pick-Me-Up.

One on the Pastor.

The following notice was recently to be seen outside a church door in a Surrey village: "Rev. E. T. will preach his farewell sermon on Sunday next. The choir will render an anthem of joy and thanksgiving, specially composed for the occasion."—New York Tribune.

His Little Joke.

"Hello! Back again, eh?" said the inveterate wanderer. "You haven't been well lately, I hear?"

"No," replied the wanderer as he gave the rattle a twist, "but I'm having a turn for the better just now."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Pince for Them.

"Every one is a pince," said Bride-man. "I notice my wife cutting wedding notices out of the papers. I wonder what she does with them?"

"Probably," remarked Henpeck, "she pastes them in a 'scrap' book."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Comfort and independence abide with those who can postpone their desires.—Success Magazine.

"How's Your Stomach?"

is the way people in China say "Good Morning." The greeting of almost every nation is an inquiry after health. The Chinese have the root of the matter. A strong stomach is the foundation. Look after this organ and the general health cares for itself. Man is so constituted it cannot be otherwise. It is the mission of

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